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## Directions for Use and Care

Jason Snart  
*College of DuPage*

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# Directions for Care and Use

Jason Snart

Having turned away from the kitchen window  
looking at wet morning roses and carrots fighting for space  
in the small garden we made  
with decking wood and too many nails,  
I think love and this frying pan  
have a lot in common.

How do you know when it's ready?  
A droplet or two of water.  
When they dance, then you've got something.

But what about after the guilty  
pleasure of bacon, or after the eggs that I stiffened,  
or after the French toast—the trailing globs of egg milk  
like the sopping bread might have found its way back  
to the safety of the stainless steel bowl?

*The Directions for Care and Use* warns:  
Overheat the pan and it warps.  
Submerge it too quick in cold water, it warps.

So you let the faucet run somewhere  
between too hot and too cold, licking a finger  
of syrup while managing soap, and I give the pan  
a quick orbital wipe with the soft side  
of the two-sided sponge. Because pans scratch easily,  
you know, on the surface.